



Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – November 22, 2019



Board of Trustees left to right: Back Row – Silas Yellowknife (Ward 6), Randy Anderson (Ward 3), Robin Guild (Board Chair, Ward 7), Maddy Daniels (Ward 1), Jules Nokohoo (Vice-Chair, Ward 10), Louis Cardinal (Ward 5), Jesse Lamouche (Ward 4).

Front Row - Rubi Shirley (Ward 9), Loretta Gladue (Ward 8), Karen Telford (Ward 11), Cathy Wanyandie (Ward 2).

Leveraging technology supported in the Fall Budget

The Board of Trustees approved the 2019-2020 Fall Budget. The budget, aligned to support the “Northland School Division Strategic Plan for Board Priorities” (see chart below), will see the division increase technology utilization. This move will see NSD utilize virtual options to provide more programming to students and professional learning to staff. Leveraging technology is going to help reduce travel costs and windshield time in the jurisdiction.

The budget is going to strengthen support for instruction and our focus on literacy and numeracy. NSD teachers will learn a teaching strategy to help students improve current skills and comprehend information easier.

The fall budget total has changed due to a decrease in provincial grants, student enrolment and higher expenses for liability, maintenance, housing and

transportation insurance. The changes have resulted in staffing adjustments at the central office and school levels, and maintenance will be limited to required repairs. In an effort to achieve “Excellence in Financial Practices” in NSD, the Board, with support from administration, will research and implement creative strategies to reduce expenditures and increase revenues in the jurisdiction.

Northland School Division – Board Priorities

Excellence in Leadership	Excellence in Relationships	Excellence in Learning	Excellence in Financial Practices
Priority 1: Through excellent leadership practices by everyone, everyone feels welcome and valued.	Priority 2: Actively develop and purposefully work to maintain healthy relationships.	Priority 3: Students achieve their potential in literacy and numeracy.	Priority 4: Northland has a balanced budget for 2020-2021.

Board approved 2019-2022 Three Year Education Plan and 2018-2019 Annual Education Results Report

The Board of Trustees approved the 2019-2022 Three Year Education Plan and 2018-2019 Annual Education Results Report (3YP/AERR), as presented. The 3YP/AERR is one-way NSD communicates priorities, accomplishments, and student achievement results to students, parents, community members, and school division partners. The 3YP outlines the Board priorities and how they align with the outcome statements for NSD. The AERR portion highlights annual results from the Accountability Pillar Survey.

The survey uses a set of 16 indicators. Data on these indicators consist of surveys of students, parents, guardians, and teachers on various aspects of education quality, student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates, provincial assessments of student learning and parental involvement. The sample size for Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) results does not include all students. NSD had six schools unable to write PAT's due to the wildfires last May and June. Last year, the overall high school completion rate increased from 14.6% to 31.1% (16.5% change) and the overall dropout rate decreased from 10.8% to 9.3% (1.5% change). A copy of 3YP/AERR Report will be made available on the NSD website <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/reports> (Education Reports).

NSD to explore joint high school with Bigstone Cree Nation

The Board of Trustees gave direction to Board Chair Robin Guild to move forward with exploring the concept of the joint high school with Bigstone Cree Nation. NSD and Bigstone Cree Nation hosted a community meeting on October 22, 2019, at Mistassiniy School. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input from parents and community members about the concept of a joint NSD and Bigstone high school in Wabasca-Desmarais.

Every Season Learning Calendar timeline approved

The Board of Trustees approved the timeline of the "Every Season Learning Calendar." On April 25, 2019, the Board originally presented the concept at the Northland Councils of School Councils Workshop. The idea was presented to help address long-standing barriers such as student attendance, student retention, academic success, and high school completion. When information was shared with school council chairs, local Elders and Métis Settlements General Council, the Board showed videos to show potential benefits for an "Every Season Learning Calendar". Those include:

- reduced learning loss
- holidays distributed throughout the school year,
- modify the schedule to suit the needs of the community,
- improve school climate,
- better curriculum alignment with First Nations, Métis perspectives.

The approved timeline will see Trustees, Associate Superintendents and Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learner Success Lorraine Cardinal-Roy present information regarding the "Every Season Learning Calendar" to School Councils/Principal Advisory Committees. Between January and March 2020, NSD will engage with communities to see if they would like to pilot the "Every Season Learning Calendar" or continue with the current calendar format. If schools express interest in the new concept, the pilot would begin in September 2020.

Land-Based Learning courses approved

The Board approved Traditional Land-Based Learning 25-5 and Traditional Land-Based Learning 35-5. The courses will provide opportunities for students to acquire, demonstrate, and reflect on their knowledge of traditional land use. Some topics included in the courses are Introduction to Stewardship, Construction Tools and Materials, Workplace Safety Systems, etc.

Board Chair Highlights - Meeting with Minister of Education



Board Chair Robin Guild discussed the meeting of November 21, 2019 that the Trustees recently attended with Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education. The Board along with Acting Superintendent Nancy Spencer-Poitras, shared that NSD's high school completion rate improved significantly last year. In 2018-2019, 16.8% more students graduated. Guild and the Board expressed thanks to the Minister for approving a modernization or replacement of Athabasca Delta Community School (Fort Chipewyan). In regards to the Mistassiniy School Modernization, the Board informed LaGrange that they have been gathering information on joint school partnership models and plan to meet with Bigstone Cree Nation in the near future.

Acting Superintendent Highlights - Changes to NSD event protocol procedure

Acting Superintendent Nancy Spencer-Poitras presented the updated [Administrative Procedure \(AP\) 155 - Event Protocol](#) to the Board of Trustees. In 2018-2019, the Board Advocacy Committee was tasked with strengthening protocol for events involving trustees and other dignitaries. Spencer-Poitras discussed the budget meeting senior administration hosted with principals on Friday, November 8th. She said it's important for everyone (central office and schools) to work together to address the division's budget deficit. Nancy also met with Mikisew Cree First Nation twice recently to discuss an education services agreement and school council. She said the meetings were positive and commitments have been made to meet monthly.

Collaborative and Virtual Learning – Area 3 Associate Superintendent's Report



Area 3 Associate Superintendent Tim Stensland highlighted numeracy professional learning in October. It included presentations, working with tools for teaching math, and grade-level collaboration. Five out of six presenters presented their information virtually. The event ended with each school developing a plan for their next steps in the development of numeracy.

NSD teachers have access to a collaborative forum through virtual meetings. Each Wednesday after school, a virtual meeting will be held. The goal for teacher networking is confident, collegial, and happy

teachers, who feel a network of support, across the division. The report also includes school highlights. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/218858>.

NSD student attendance rate for September surpassing overall attendance target

Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Don Tessier presented student attendance results for the month of September. Our overall attendance is 87%, which is 4.6% above the division's attendance target! Of 19 schools, eight schools improved their September 2019 attendance patterns when compared to the previous year. The results show schools are working hard to reduce the number of students attending below 70%.

Tessier talked about a parent gathering he attended at St. Theresa School. The school asked students and parents in attendance how they could better support families. He said students and parents asked questions about noon hour and after school programming. Within the "Northland School Division Every Day Counts Attendance Improvement Operation Plan", schools are tasked with the responsibility of organizing parent gatherings focused on student achievement and the importance of regular attendance. Tessier also showed the trustees a flow chart the division uses to address chronic non-attenders (students attending below 80%). Acting Superintendent of Schools Nancy Spencer-Poitras thanked Tessier for his efforts to address student attendance. She said the improvements being made is a credit to the work Don is doing with schools.

View Board Schedule, Agendas, Minutes, Highlights and Attachments on our website at <https://www.nsd61.ca/governance/board-meeting-agenda-minutes>.

Next Corporate Board Meeting is Friday, January 24, 2020

Note: These writings do not constitute the official record of the Northland School Division No.61. They are however, provided as general information relating to action taken at board meetings. For further information, please call 780-624-2060 or 1-800-362-1360.